

Protocol-based networking and other products for transporting data, voice, and video across geographically dispersed local-areanetworks, metropolitan-area networks, and wide-area networks. Devices are primarily integrated by Cisco IOS Software and include Routers, Switches, New Products, and Other. Provides services as-

68.1% of 2015 earnings. R&D, 13.5% of revenues. Has about 75,049 employees. Officers/Directors hold less than 1.0% of stock; BlackRock, 6.1%, Vanguard, 5.5%. (9/15 proxy). Chrmn. & CEO: Chuck Robbins. Inc.: CA. Address: 170 W. Tasman Drive, San Jose, CA 95134-1706. Tele.: 408-526-4000. Web: www.cisco.com.

**ANNUAL RATES** Est'd '13-'15 Past 10 Yrs. 11.0% 5 Yrs. 7.0% of change (per sh) to '19-'21 5.0% 5.5% 6.0% Revenues 'Cash Flow 11.0% 10.5% 11.5% 11.0% Earnings Dividends 10.5% Book Value 11.5% 10.5%

67114

1032

18269

19809

508

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Other

8896

1104 3897

18622

23623

76283

78571

1007

4164

18832

24003

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Fiscal Year Ends			/ENUES (\$ Apr.Per		Full Fiscal Year
2013	11876	12098	12216	12417	48607
2014	12085	11155	11545	12357	47142
2015	12245	11936	12137	12843	49161
2016	12682	11927	12000	12191	48800
2017	12500	12260	12500	12990	50250
Fiscal Year Ends	EARNINGS PER SHARE AB Oct.Per Jan.Per Apr.Per Jul.Per				Full Fiscal
			•		Year
2013	.48	.51	.51	.52	2.02
2014	.53	.47	.51	.55	2.06
2015	.54	.53	.54	.59	2.21
2016	.59	.57	.57	.57	2.30
2017	.60	.59	.58	.63	2.40
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY DI	VIDENDS I Sep.30		Full Year
2012	.06	.08	.08	.28	.50
2013		.17	.17	.17	.51
2014	.17	.19	.38		.74
2015	.40		.21	.21	.82
2016	21	26	'		.02

Cisco Systems posted solid results for the April quarter. Earnings per share came in at \$0.57, two cents above our estimate and 5.5% above the prior year's tally. Revenues of \$12 billion matched our estimate and fell 1% year over year (rose 3% excluding the divested set-top box unit). Product sales advanced 1% and service revenues increased 11% (4% normalized for an extra week in the period). Orders were up 3% and the book-to-bill ratio was above one. The standout metric was the gross margin of 65.2%, with 64.5% for products and 67.1% for services. The combined result was well ahead of the 62.5%-63.5% guidance range and the best showing since 2010. More efficient engineering, fewer price concessions, and improved freight and inventory management all contributed to the positive result. Management now expects this highly-scrutinized ratio to stay in the 63%-64% range. Guidance for July-quarter revenues and earnings is flat to up 3%.

Macroeconomic uncertainty has created a cautious spending environ**ment.** Router sales were 5% lower than last year, owing mostly to service pro-

viders becoming more conservative with capital expenditures of late. Sales to Web 2.0 clients have offset this somewhat, rising 31% in the quarter. Meanwhile, the largest unit by sales, Switching, saw its top line fall 3%, as some campus customers are delaying network upgrades. Over-all, enterprise business fell 2%, commercial grew 8%, public sector was up 6%, and

service provider sales were flat.

Concern over "white box" switches has faded somewhat. There has been no sign of generic low-cost devices disrupting Cisco's switching business. Cisco's ability to meet customers' desire for cost-efficient data center automation appears to be preventing them from transitioning to unbraded products. The company plans to evolve its offerings along with the technology transition in order to stay relevant.

Conservative income types should look here. Cisco is doing well in areas it can control, and seems positioned to take advantage of upcoming technology transi-tions. However, a weak demand environment will likely keep this industry bellwether under pressure for now. Kevin Downing

June 17, 2016

(A) Fiscal year ends on last Saturday in July (four 13-week quarters). (B) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring items: '00, (17¢); '01, (38¢); '02, (14¢); '03, (9¢); '04, (14¢). '01 in-

thereafter. (C) In millions, adjusted for stock Jan., April, July, and Oct.

cludes \$0.15 inventory writeoff. May not sum due to rounding. Next egs. report due mid-August. GAAP egs. prior to 2011, pro-forma idend commenced March 29, 2011, paid in late

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 70 Price Growth Persistence 30 **Earnings Predictability** 90

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